

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia
SUBJECT Military Activity in Istria Area

DATE DISTR. 26 March 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED As Indicated Below

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED 25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF U. S. C. 51 AND 52, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED. HOWEVER, INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BODY OF THE FORM MAY BE UTILIZED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RECEIVING AGENCY.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

25X1

1. Important fortifications are being built in Istria. From 10 to 17 Jan 48 a group of 20 military engineers and architects arrived in Pola. One group remained and the other went out into the field. Reports indicate that fortifications are being built and that Pola is being converted into a military base of the first order. Sections of an engineer unit have been transferred to Pisina, Portofino, Pin Quenti and Villa d'Novara. Earlier reports announced that engineer units are still located at Montebelluna, Pozzo, Lippa and Zabica.
2. The Pola garrison has an estimated strength of three thousand soldiers. In addition to infantry and marine infantry, it has artillery of all types, including antiaircraft. Tank units have been placed in the former Italian school and courtyard. Coast artillery is located in Pola Bay and Brioni. A coast division is also located on Brioni, and it has been reported that a radio station is there. Antiaircraft units were on the alert during the entire month of January 1948, while the coast artillery was continuously practicing loading.
3. The Capodistria garrison has a strength of three thousand soldiers. In addition to infantry and marine infantry it has various artillery of a smaller caliber and an anti-tank detachment. One tank unit has been placed in a former Italian school. It is believed that there are about 1,600 soldiers in the tank unit. The tanks are of various types. The soldiers are poorly clothed, poorly fed, and generally exhausted. Discipline is weak and a number of fights have occurred among the soldiers. A modern repair shop is included in the equipment.
4. From the FFT, which is under administration of VUJA, all of the arrested civilians have been transferred to Capodistria. In addition to the main jail, Calce's Judiciary, there are three others, all full. Arrests are made at night and for trifling reasons.
5. At Antignano there is a small naval garrison comprising one officer and 10 men, who are directly under the command at Fiume. The garrison's mission is to act as an observation post. Trucks carrying supplies for these men formerly were
6. Villa Decani has a garrison strength of two thousand soldiers, as well as tanks and cavalry. The cavalry patrols the countryside while the tanks patrol the roads. Two battalions of INOF are also part of this garrison.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	AIR		

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

- 2 -

7. A radio center has been placed in Plumb, along with an automobile battalion and auto repair shop. During January Soviet-Polish 76 mm artillery was observed in Plumb. Reports indicate also that Soviet artillery officers were dressed in Yugoslav uniforms. A large ammunition dump for the Second Army is located at Plassa. Its commanding officer is a Soviet officer.
8. The Zemunik airfield near Zadra has a fighter pilot school and fighter planes have been seen on the field. It is being expanded and a new large airfield, which will be among the most modern in the country, is being built. Underground gasoline tanks are being constructed in the vicinity of the field. Work is under direct supervision of Yugoslav engineers, but the chief engineer is a Russian.

- end -

CONFIDENTIAL